

(B) RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPERVISE DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM.—THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXERCISE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS WATER RESOURCES BY PLANNING AND SUPERVISING MULTIPLE PURPOSE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE WATERS OF THE STATE FOR THE STATE'S BEST INTERESTS AND BENEFIT. IT SHALL DEVELOP A GENERAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM WHICH CONTEMPLATES PROPER CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERS OF THE STATE, IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSE MANAGEMENT ON A WATERSHED OR AQUIFER BASIS, OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT. THE PROGRAM SHALL RECOGNIZE AND BE CONSISTENT WITH FUNCTIONS OF OTHER STATE UNITS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE PROGRAM IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

(C) MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER TIDAL WATERS.—THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT, AND CONSERVATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ANY OTHER TIDAL WATERS, INCLUDING THEIR SHORE LINE AND BOTTOM, AND ANY RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE WATERS. ALSO, THE DEPARTMENT MAY:

(1) PLAN AND DEVELOP PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN OR ON THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER TIDAL WATERS;

(2) ASSIST OTHER STATE UNITS TO PLAN PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER TIDAL WATERS;

(3) COOPERATE WITH OTHER UNITS TO CARRY OUT MEASURES TO PROTECT TIDAL WATER FRONTS AND WATERWAYS OF THE STATE AGAINST EROSION AND DEPOSIT; AND

(4) ACT FOR THE STATE TO DEVELOP FURTHER NAVIGATION AIDS AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATERWAYS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND OTHER TIDAL WATER AREAS OF THE STATE.

(D) SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND STUDIES IN GENERAL; CONTRACTS FOR RESEARCH OR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION. — THE DEPARTMENT MAY MAKE OR CAUSE TO BE MADE, SURVEYS, MAPS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND STUDIES OF WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO FORMULATE A PROGRAM AND PERFORM ITS DUTIES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT FOR RESEARCH OR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, THE